

I am a professor, teaching media studies at MIT.

The 'Broadcast Flag' seriously threatens my ability as a teacher to illustrate my classes on contemporary media. Media literacy, it seems to me, is vital for the future of our democracy.

The 'Broadcast Flag' also potentially interferes with my ability as a citizen and consumer to 'time shift' on my own terms, or to shift viewing platforms (to record at one location for playback at another).

Finally, the proposed 'Broadcast flag' must be seen in light of earlier fears introduced by the video tape recorder. Jack Valenti and his colleagues sought to introduce repressive measures, fearing product loss through this new technology. The FCC did nothing, and ultimately the motion picture industry made a fortune with the new technology. The panic is back, the urge to repress technology is back, and the interests of the few against the many are back.

I strongly urge the FCC to reject the Broadcast Flag, and to permit unrestricted domestic, non-commercial recording of digital television.

Thank you.